COLORADO
SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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CROP PRODUCTION - JULY 2010

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado is now forecast at 92.0 million bushels according to the Colorado Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This is up 3 percent from the June 1 forecast but 6 percent below last year's production. Growers expect to harvest 2.3 million acres this year, down 150,000 acres from 2009. The state's average yield is forecast at 40.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous year and 1.0 bushel per acre above the June forecast. **Barley** production is initially forecast at 9.38 million bushels, down 10 percent from the 2009 crop. Acreage harvested is expected to total 67,000 acres, down from 77,000 harvested last year and yield is forecast at 140.0 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above last year. **Fall potato** growers in the San Luis Valley planted 55,500 acres this year, down 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to total 55,200 acres, unchanged from 2009. The first 2010 fall potato production forecast will be released November 9, 2010. **Summer potato** production is expected to reach 1.64 million cwt for 2010 up 5 percent from the 2009 crop. Growers expect to harvest 4,000 acres this year, up 3 percent from the previous year. Average yield is initially forecast at 410 cwt per acre, 10 cwt above last year's yield. Colorado's 2010 **peach** crop is initially forecast at 14,000 tons, up 1,000 tons from last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.51 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the June 1 forecast but down 1 percent from 2009. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 46.9 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and 2.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be tied for the third highest yield on record, trailing only 1999 and 2008. Expected grain area totals 32.1 million acres, down 7 percent from last year but unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2010. Harvest in the 18 major producing States was 54 percent complete by July 4, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

Other spring wheat production is forecast at 607 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third largest production on record. The United States yield is forecast at 44.6 bushels per acre, down 0.5 bushel from last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, trailing only last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 13.6 million acres, unchanged from the *Acreage* report released on June 30, 2010 but up 5 percent from last year.

Oats production is forecast at 87.7 million bushels, down 6 percent from 2009. If realized, this will be the lowest production on record. Based on conditions as of July 1, the yield is forecast at 66.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from 2009's record high yield. Growers expect to harvest 1.32 million acres for grain or seed, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record.

Barley production for 2010 is forecast at 182 million bushels, down 20 percent from 2009. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield for the United States is forecast at 71.6 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from a year ago. While the forecasted yield per acre is down 2 percent from a year ago, the expected decline in production is more a reflection of the lowest planted acreage on record and the lowest expected harvested acreage since 1883. Area harvested for grain or seed, at 2.55 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 18 percent from 2009. Record high yields are expected in Arizona and Colorado, while a record tying yield is forecast for Idaho.

The U.S. **peach** production forecast is 1.13 million tons, up 2 percent from 2009. Fourteen of the twenty-three Freestone peach estimating States expect increases in production from last year, while six States decreased their production from the previous season, and three States showed no change. Freestone production, at 707,090 tons, is up 11 percent from last season. The California Clingstone crop is forecast at 420,000 tons, up 2 percent from the June 1 forecast but 10 percent below the 2009 crop. The crop experienced an adequate number of chilling hours for tree requirements. Full bloom, on a statewide basis, was declared on March 9, six days later than in 2009. This season's bloom was not as strong as last year and occurred over a longer period of time. Rain and colder than normal spring temperatures have slowed crop development. The Late and Extra Late varieties are reported to be lighter than normal. Harvest began on June 23, five days later than last year. The California Freestone crop is forecast at 355,000 tons, down 3 percent from the June 1 forecast but 1 percent above the 2009 crop. Bloom started out quickly but was slowed due to cool spring temperatures. Lack of warm weather resulted in pollination problems. Hail damage affected various growing areas throughout the spring. Harvest continued during June with June Flame, Country Sweet, Earlirich, and Rich Lady the major varieties harvested.

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Potato growers across the United States planted an estimated 1.03 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons of the 2010 crop year, down 4 percent from the previous year. Area for harvest, forecasted at 1.01 million acres, is down 3 percent from 2009. Area planted to **fall potatoes** in 2010 is estimated at 896,100 acres, down 4 percent from the 2009 crop year. Harvested area is forecast at 882,300 acres, also down 4 percent from 2009. Idaho growers reduced planted area 8 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fewest planted acres since 1980. Washington producers planted 7 percent fewer acres than a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest planted area since 1992. Oversupply and prices deterred producers from increasing acreage. Oregon growers reduced planted area 5 percent from last year. The crop got off to a slow start as cool, wet conditions slowed growth. In Maine, planted area dropped 1 percent from the previous year. Warm, dry conditions encouraged growth. In Colorado, producers started planting earlier than usual and finished ahead of the usual pace. Producers continued to voluntarily limit acreage this year for water conservation and supply management. In North Dakota, warm, dry weather allowed planting to begin earlier than normal and was 40 percent planted by April 25. Planting remained ahead of average and was virtually complete by May 30. Nearly all of Minnesota potatoes were planted by May 23. Due to recent rains, some operators had to replant their acreage, while some decided not to replant.

Production of **summer potatoes** is forecast at 13.1 million cwt, down 10 percent from 2009. Harvested area is estimated at 38,500 acres, 10 percent below last year. Average yield is forecast at 339 cwt per acre, down slightly from 2009. The reduction in production is due primarily to the fact that California's summer potatoes are combined with spring potatoes beginning in 2010. Production is expected to be down in Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, and Virginia. States forecasting an increase in production are Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado, where favorable conditions contributed to increased yields.